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NEWS-LETTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOTANISTS
NUUSBRIEF VAN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE GENOOTSKAP VAN PLANTKUNDIGES

BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE: The annual report of the Institute is continued from the previous issue (Vol. 19, No. 5):-

PLANT EXPLORATION SECTION: Research in this section, under the leadership of Mr M.J. Wells, has been divided mainly between weeds and plant utilization research. With the recent establishment of the Weeds Research Unit, this Institute's involvement with weeds research has largely fallen away. This section will therefore have most of its energy directed at investigating the more useful elements of our flora. One of the priority areas will be the conservation of germ plasm, particularly crop plants many of which have serious, man-made selective pressures rapidly aiding their disappearance.

Conservation of Germ Plasm: This project has progressed slowly with all its input coming from activities carried out in other projects. Its fundamental aim is to conserve the germ plasm of primitive crop plants. Over the year 33 collections were made of *Lagenaria*, collected mainly in Zululand and Gazankulu. Other collections include *Sorghum* and *Pennisetum* 11, *Citrullus* 5, Pulse crops 10 and miscellaneous 19.

Conservation of Threatened Plants: Originally covered by the Germ Plasm project, this project has now been given independent status with Mrs J. Hoffman as the responsible officer.

The rare and endangered plants of the Transvaal (216 taxa) were examined and the compilation of dossiers for each taxon started. Each dossier will house all available information about individual threatened taxa. Based on a list of taxa in the National Herbarium, represented by 5 or less collections, an additional $\pm$ 480 taxa were added to the Threatened Plants List increasing the total to $\pm$ 2 395 taxa. Threatened plants growing in the BRI gardens and nursery were also listed. These comprise 40 families, 113 genera and 261 species. Of these 3 taxa are considered to be extinct in the wild, i.e.

Encephalartos woodii, *Leucadendron concavum* and *Elephantorrhiza woodii*, 14 endangered, 50 vulnerable, 106 rare, 37 indeterminate and 51 uncertain.

Origin and Classification of *Sorghum*: Approximately 100 specimens of primitive crop sorghums collected throughout South Africa were examined by Mr T.H. Arnold and identified to the level of race and in some instances to forms. Forty-one collections many from elsewhere in Africa were obtained from the Department's seed bank and have been grown. A review was made of all available archaeological literature pertaining to *Sorghum* in South Africa. This has revealed from recent carbon datings of *Sorghum* seed that this crop probably arrived in South Africa 700 years earlier than originally estimated, namely about 1 700 BP. ($\pm$ 200 AD).

Origin and Classification of *Pennisetum*: Miss K. Duggan's work on primitive crop pennisetums has shown that the cultivated members of this genus are extremely variable. In some parts of the country it is often difficult to find two inflorescences from a single field looking alike. Despite this, most of the material examined appears to belong to *Pennisetum americanum* subsp. *americanum* race *typhoides* (cultivated type). A limited number of specimens were identified as belonging to *P. americanum* subsp. *stenostachyum* (weedy type). Club-shaped inflorescence forms reported not to exist in South Africa have been collected from various localities. Two new morphological characters not mentioned in existing literature were discovered. The exact importance of these characters has not yet been established.

Ethno-botany: In her utilization study by the Tsonga of Gazankulu Miss C. Liengme has weighed and analyzed 192 bundles of firewood. The most important species used are *Colophospermum mopane* and *Combretum apiculatum*, representing 41% and 21% of the total firewood weight recorded. Mopane also comprises 90% of the wood utilized in hut and granary construction. During a period of 6 months 87 huts were built in the study area of 3 villages. Each hut requiring 30 — 46 poles — this means that between 2 610 — 4 002 poles were used. One hut pole often represents one tree, however assuming that two poles are produced by a single tree then anything up to $\pm$ 2 700 trees were removed from the vegetation during the six month period.

Tree Distribution in the Transvaal: The basic field work towards establishing high resolution distribution maps of each of the 900 indigenous woody species of the Transvaal has progressed significantly. Dr J.M. Anderson has sampled a further 174 of the $^{1}/_{16}$th degree square units thus

completing his sampling contribution. Other non-institute contributors will require a further summer season in order to bring the field work to a close. It is estimated that a further 2 — 3 years' work will be required to bring the tree atlas to completion. Two significant additions to the proposed format include the autecological element being enhanced and the inclusion of pen sketches for each species. This work has already begun.

Barrier Plants: Progress here has been good. Miss L. Henderson has added ± 30 species to the existing security barriers list, bringing the total to 230 species. Five basic elements have been recognized within the various forms of barriers. These elements may in some cases form a barrier alone, but in most cases work best when in combination with each other. The plants which best satisfy the barrier requirements of each element must possess 5 or 6 characteristics which are used to define each element. Ninety species have so far been assessed and allotted to one of the 5 barrier elements. Based on a point system associated with each characteristic, the species examined have been given priority (suitability) ratings within each element.

One hundred different taxa have been collected on field trips, either as whole plants or cuttings, and are being grown in the institute nursery. Similarly the seed germination tests have been carried out on 20 taxa.

Information Service: Mrs D.M.C. Fourie, our Scientific Information Officer, handled 477 requests for information about economic plants and their utilization or control. These include 133 identifications of cultivated plants, 90 telephone enquiries and 254 information requests to post.

With the help of Mrs J. Hoffmann numerous visitors (1 897), including Science Olympiad winners, overseas visitors, scholars and members of the public were taken on special tours of the Institute and its gardens and nursery.

Mrs Fourie is also playing a very active role in organizing the menu for the special indigenous dinner to form part of the AETFAT congress to take place in Pretoria during January 1982.

National Weeds List: The basic weeds list compiled by Mr A. Balsinhas now includes the names of some 1 600 species. A weed classification system has been devised by Mrs V. Engelbrecht. The classification system covers the origin, habitat, kinds of weeds, weedy characteristics, useful characteristics, life cycle, reproduction, growth form and woodiness (in addition to a taxonomic classification and common names). To date, ± 1 280 species have

been classified.

Lantana camara: Thirty taxa have been written up and photographed by Mr C.H. Stirton so far. Each taxon has been assigned a uninomial e.g. sheba, baxa, jabula, quagga, etc. Preliminary field keys have been compiled for all the yellow- and the orange-flowering taxa, and tested in the field. The re= maining keys and taxa will be completed in 1981/1982. Flowers, fruits, stems and leaves of 4 taxa have been surveyed with the SEM and show taxonom= ically significant differences. This work is being continued.

Rubus: Up until Mr C.H. Stirton's return from Kew, plants of *Rubus* were housed in various greenhouses within the BRI. These have all been repotted, fertilized, relabelled, and placed in a central shade house. Specimens have been photographed and prepared for examination using the scanning-electron microscope.

Nassella Tussock: The investigation into the longevity of nassella tussock by Mr M.J. Wells has been shelved until autecological work being carried out by Mr D. Joubert (E. Cape) and Mr G. Harding (Winter-rainfall) are completed. As both these officers do or will fall under the Weeds Research Unit and are better placed to carry out field work, it is now envisaged that this project will later be taken over by one of them.

Woody Invaders: In the Transvaal 41% of the ¼ degree squares in the survey area have been sampled by Ms L. Henderson and K. Duggan. Of this figure 31% were completed this year. Forty-eight species, including 5 additions to the list, have been recorded. Of these 12 are considered to be particularly aggressive and invasive.

Leguminosae: Considerable progress has been made in defining the species limits of *Psoralea* in South Africa. Types of most species have now been traced. Mr C.H. Stirton has also written up detailed descriptions of 18 species of *Psoralea* and *Otholobium*, 3 species of *Rhynchosia*, and 1 species of *Rafnia*; 5 being new species. Mr Stirton has also registered for a Ph.D. at the University of Cape Town. The topic is 'A revision of African Psoraleae', and will be studied using the principles of cladistic analysis and vicariance biogeography.

ECOLOGY SECTION: The function of the Ecology Section is to study the vege= tation of South Africa and its ecological relations. This work involves three main aspects:

. The identification, description, classification and mapping of the various kinds of vegetation

. Study of the ecological relationships between different kinds of vegetation - with each other and with the environment — and of the various processes and mechanisms that determine the behaviour of plant communities.

. The application of ecological knowledge and methods to environmental planning.

Veld Types of South Africa: Further progress on the revision of the veld types of the western half of the country is being made as a co-operative venture, involving Institute staff and also people outside the Institute. That part of the revised treatment of the Kalahari Thornveld that remains to be completed awaits the completing of the revision of the veld types of the Northern Cape, on which considerable progress is being made by Mr A. Gubb of the McGregor Museum, Kimberley.

Transvaal Bushveld Survey: Field work on the plant ecology of the farm Groothoek,Thabazimbi District, has been completed by Mr R.H. Westfall. The vegetation has been classified into 21 communities and variations of communities. The condition of the vegetation has also been assessed. The synthesis of community, habitat and assessment data is reflected in a single table that was prepared by a new set of computer programmes developed for this purpose.

Transvaal Forest Survey: Preparatory work on a transect study in the Sabie area is well under way with air-photo interpretation and stratification for stratified random sampling having been completed by Mr G.B. Deall. He has commenced field sampling.

KwaZulu Coastal Dune Survey: Dr P.J. Weisser has completed field work for the project 'Vegetation study of the Zululand coastal dunes between Richards Bay and Mlalazi Lagoon'. He has collected specimens and recorded vegetation data from about 120 sites. Areas important for conservation were found mainly along the coast, near to the Mlalazi River Mouth and the vicinity of the new Richards Bay Mouth.

Studies of Littoral Vegetation: In a special study of the coast vegetation opposite St Croix Island near Port Elizabeth, extending about 18 km along the coast and about 4 km inland, Mr H.C. Taylor distinguished five major vegeta=

tion categories: (1) *Scaevola thunbergii* Pioneer Vegetation of littoral dunes and *Ficinia lateralis* Sedgeland of calcrete gravel; (2) *Olea exasperata* Bush, *Pterocelastrus tricuspidatus* Bushclumps and Dune Woodland; (3) Sundays River Scrub; (4) Fynbos of calcrete areas; and (5) *Themeda triandra* Grassland. Invasion of the area by *Acacia cyclops* is becoming severe.

Further work is being done for the book on dry coastal ecosystems (in Elsevier's series *Ecosystems of the World*) on a co-operative basis with co-workers not on Institute staff. From various published and unpublished sources, Dr P.J. Weisser has contributed to a section on the dune vegetation of the east coast of South Africa. Meanwhile, Messrs C. Boucher and H.C. Taylor have nearly completed work on the western and southern Cape coast. In this phytosociological study, confined to the special vegetation that comes under the direct and strong influence of the sea and the maritime climate, Mr. Taylor distinguishes a series of five major plant communities from wet to dry, along the southern Cape coast. Of these, two occur on bedrock, one on limestone and two on marine sand. The simple pioneer dune community is the most widespread, but since all five communities are represented in most of the landscape segments of the coastline, he concludes that this strand vegetation comprises only one floristic element.

Analyzing data previously collected along the western Cape coast, Mr Boucher shows that the strand vegetation between Table Bay and the Orange River mouth can be divided into the Capensis and the Namaqualand Floristic Regions, with the Olifants River mouth as boundary. He distinguishes three groups of communities in the Namaqualand and two in the Capensis strand regions. A nature reserve along the Namaqualand coast is an urgent priority because extensive opencast diamond mining is destroying large tracts of vegetation.

Studies of Cape Estuaries: After completing preparatory work, Miss R.J. Parsons commenced fieldwork on a botanical survey of the 138 Cape estuaries between the Orange and Kei Rivers in September 1980. She has mapped the vegetation of 35 estuaries from colour aerial photographs and, for 11 of these, the mapping units have been checked and their species composition, structure and environmental conditions studied.

Aquatic Ecology: Mr C.F. Musil has synthesized field and laboratory data on the growth rate and chemical composition of water hyacinth plants and he is preparing a final report on his results and their implications. Growth co-efficients determined in culture compare favourably with those determined for various species of diatoms and algae. Growth rates in the field are considerably higher than those in culture, but are influenced by the growth

forms of plants, atmospheric conditions and nutritional factors. Provided lower growth rates determined in culture are compensated for, growth coefficients generated in culture can be used to predict growth rates measured in the field.

Using air photos, Dr P.J. Weisser and Miss R.J. Parsons studied the increase of reeds (*Phragmites australis*) from 1937 to 1976 in the Siyai Lagoon in Natal. The reeds increased from 0,27 ha in 1927 to 2,94 ha in 1976.

Cape Fynbos Survey

Western Cape Foreland Studies: Mr C. Boucher has prepared a preliminary map of the western foreland between the Berg River mouth and False Bay showing the boundaries of the Strandveld, Coastal Fynbos and Coastal Renosterveld vegetation types at a scale of 1: 250 000. He subdivides these veld types into twelve smaller categories. He has also altered some accepted veld type boundaries particularly bear Saldanha Bay and the Cape Flats.

By 1972, agriculture, urbanization and the spread of introduced weeds has reduced the former extent of Strandveld, Coastal Fynbos and Coastal Renosterveld, south of the Berg River, to 41%, 14% and 6% respectively. Only 0,2% of the original extent of Strandveld in the western foreland is conserved, and only 0,01% of Coastal Fynbos and of Coastal Renosterveld. Thus there is a very urgent need to preserve remnants of these veld types.

Cape Mountain Fynbos Studies: Mr B.M. Campbell has completed his field sampling and data processing towards setting up a structural-functional classification of mountain fynbos that is much needed by managers and researchers working in this vegetation. A classification has been developed that has been tested in the field and is now being finalized. Several papers are being prepared on various aspects of this work.

Orothamnus zeyheri (marsh rose): Observations by Mr C. Boucher over an extended period have revealed that marsh rose populations show cyclical fluctuations in size depending on the length of the inter-fire interval. The longer the interval, the fewer the number of remaining plants. This species could survive a fire-free period of 34 years although a fifteen-year period would probably be optimal.

Frequent fires, excessive trampling and an increase of infestations of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* or other lethal fungi can endanger the survival of this threatened plant of mountain fynbos.

Fynbos Biome Project: As an initial contribution to this project, Mr C.Boucher has examined the vegetation of the Fynbos Biome Project study site at Pella. Eight communities were identified and a preliminary map was drawn. The final map, together with a systematic checklist of the flora will be completed when further identifications are received.

NAKOR National Plan for Nature Conservation: With the indispensable assistance of Miss B.K. Drews and, latterly, of Mrs R. Müller, Dr J.C. Scheepers has continued to act as part-time co-ordinator to the NAKOR National Plan for Nature Conservation for the Department of Water Affairs, Forestry and Environmental Conservation. The latter Department will henceforth provide the services of a full-time co-ordinator, while the Institute will, for the time being, provide the technical support necessary to manage the data bank and related operations.

Other Environmental Planning Work: Miss B.K. Drews has prepared a report on the vegetation of the P160-1 highway corridor, planned to pass through the Magaliesberg and Witwatersrand Ranges. In this report, possible impacts that the highway might have on the surrounding vegetation are discussed and recommendations made as to how these could possibly be minimized. On the basis of air-photo interpretation and information received from Saasveld Forestry Research Station, she has recommended the setting aside of certain natural areas in the George Guide Plan, which is being prepared by the Environmental Conservation Branch of the Department of Water Affairs, Forestry and Environmental Conservation.

South African Savanna Ecosystem Project: During his studies on the seasonal biomass change of the dominant woody species at the Nylsvley study site, Dr M.C. Rutherford has investigated important departures from the normal sigmoidal growth pattern in shoots of selected woody plants. Early season growth fluctuations could be largely ascribed to asynchronous growth of shoot populations as well as to the dependence on different conversions to shoot mass through time. Shoot growth was also affected significantly by plant size and the branched status of the twigs. Root studies of savanna plants showed that the hitherto unknown rate of root tip loss was fairly constant during the growing season but attained a maximum in autumn and winter.

1982 SAAB CONGRESS: The 1982 Congress will be held in Pretoria on 15 – 16 January, immediately preceding the AETFAT Congress. The SAAB AGM and Dinner will be held during the week of AETFAT.

In response to the First Circular, over 50 oral papers and 14 poster papers have been proposed, so that it will be necessary to have parallel sessions for physiology and ecology/taxonomy. There will also be a symposium on gradients in Fynbos vegetation.

The Second Circular will be posted shortly to those who responded positively to the First Circular.

SUID-AFRIKAANSE PLANTKUNDIGE OP INTERNASIONALE KONGRES VEREER: Tydens die 13e Internasionale Botaniese Kongres wat gedurende Augustus 1981 in Sydney, Australië gehou is, is professor Nathanaël Grobbelaar, hoof van die Departement Plantkunde van die Universiteit van Pretoria vir 'n driejaar termyn verkies tot Voorsitter van die Raad van die Plantkundedivisie van die Internasionale Unie van Biologiese Wetenskappe (IUBW) onder wie se beskerming die Internasionale Botaniese Kongresse gereël word. Sovêr vasgestel kan word, is dit die eerste keer dat so 'n eer 'n Suid-Afrikaanse plantkundige te beurt val. Professor Grobbelaar is gedurende 1980 in Helsinki, Finland, vir 'n periode van drie jaar as die hoofverteenwoordiger van die Plantkundedivisie op die Uitvoerende Komitee van die IUBW verkies. Hy beklee dus tans gelyktydig albei die hoof uitvoerende posisies van die Plantkundedivisie van die IUBW.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW — APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR: Professor E.A. Bell, B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D., C.Chem., F.R.S.C., F.L.S., has been appointed Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, from November 1, 1981. He succeeds Professor J.P.M. Brenan, M.A., B.Sc. (Oxon), F.L.S., F.I. Biol., V.M.H., who became Director in September 1976 and is now retiring.

Professor Arthur Bell was educated at Dame Allan's School, Newcastle and at the Universities of Durham (King's College, Newcastle) and Dublin (Trinity College). He has been Professor of Biology and Head of the Department of Plant Sciences, King's College, London since 1972 and Dean of Natural Science since 1980. Previously he had been Lecturer in Biochemistry, Trinity College, Dublin, Reader in Biochemistry, King's College, London and Professor in the Universities of Kansas (1966) and Sierra Leone (1977) and Commonwealth Visiting Fellow Australia (1980). He has over 100 publications on secondary plant compounds, chemotaxonomy and ecological biochemistry to his credit. He is a former Chairman of the Phytochemical Society of Europe, a Council member of the Linnean Society of London, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and a Member of the Society of Experimental Biology and of the Royal Institution.

UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA, DEPARTEMENT PLANTKUNDE: 'n Plantkundige ekskursie is die afgelope Aprilvakansie met die derdejaarstudente van die departement Plantkunde van die Universiteit van Pretoria onder leiding van Professor Albert Eicker onderneem. Hy is bygestaan deur mnr A E van Wyk en mej M I Claassen. Veertig studente het die toer meegemaak. Met die Plantkunde III-ekskursie word daar onder andere gepoog om die studente met so 'n groot moontlike verskeidenheid plantegroeitipes te laat kennis maak. Tydens die ekskursie is ongeveer 26 plantegroeitipes besigtig. 'n Beskrywing van elke plantegroeitipe het in die toergids verskyn wat elke student ontvang het. Roetekaarte wat die verspreiding van die plantegroeitipes aandui is aan die studente verskaf.

Daar is gepoog om vir elke plantegroeitipe die kenmerkende groeivorms en tipe-rende plantspesies aan die studente uit te wys. Klem is ook op sekere breër ekologiese aspekte gelê terwyl die name van opvallende en plantkundig-interessante plante verstrek is. Verskeie grasveldtipes is tydens die reis vanaf Pretoria na Middelburg (K.P.) besigtig. Die swak toestand van die veld is beklemtoon en verskeie plantspesies wat dui op Karoo-indringing is uitgewys. Faktore wat tot die ontwikkeling van die Skyn-Hoër Karoo aanleiding gegee het is beklemtoon. Tydens die reis van Middelburg oor Graaff-Reinet, Jansenville en Uitenhage na Port Elizabeth is aandag aan die kompleksiteit en verskeidenheid van die oostelike Karootipes gegee. Klem is veral op kenmerke van die *Merxmuellera*-bergveld, Spekboomveld, Noorsveld en Valleibosveld gelê. Van Port Elizabeth na Harkerville is daar deur Skyn-Fynbos en Knysna-woud gereis. Die teenwoordigheid van verskeie indringerspesies is beklemtoon. Die inheemse woud by Stormsrivierbrug is besoek.

Op Maandag 13 April 1981 het mnr C J Geldenhuys van die Saasveld Bosnavorsingstasie die studente oor die aard, bestuur en bewaring van die inheemse woude toegespreek. Hy word deur mnr Grewer van die Bosstreek Suid-Kaap bygestaan. Na afloop van die lesing is die Kruisfontein-staatsbos onder leiding van mnr Geldenhuys besoek. Die volgende dag is die inheemse woud in die Diepwalle-staatsbos besoek. Aspekte van die Vogtige Hoë-woud is hier bestudeer en kenmerkende spesies is uitgewys. Vir die bestudering van die Fynbosplantegroei tussen die woude is die Ysternek-Natuurreservaat besoek.

Die reis na Gordonsbaai is gebruik om die studente met aspekte van die Renosterbosveld van die kusstreek vertroud te maak. Die Harold Porter-Nasionale Botaniese Tuin op Bettysbaai is ook besoek. Dit is gevolg deur 'n besoek aan die Kogelbergstaatsbos waar die unieke fynbos-plantegroei van die gebied onder leiding van mnr Syphus van die Highlands-Bosboustasie bestudeer is.

Die fynbos in die Kogelbergstaatsbos word reeds vir etlike jare deur die Departe-

ment Bosbou teen veral indringerplante en onwettige blomplukkers beskerm. Talle endemiese asook ander uiters seldsame plantspesies word hier aangetref. Floris= ties besit die Kogelbergstaatsbos waarskynlik van die hoogste spesiekonsentra= sies per oppervlakte-eenheid in die wêreld. Benewens die gebied se unieke flora, dra die ongerepte berglandskap by tot seker die mees aanskoulike natuurskoon denkbaar.

As in ag geneem word dat meer as sestig persent van die fynbos wat die Kaapse Ryk verteenwoordig reeds vernietig en slegs omtrent vyftien persent van die oorbly= wende plantegroei nog vry van indringerplante is, moet alles moontlik gedoen word om die fynbos in die Kogelbergstaatsbos te bewaar. Geen wonder dus dat die voorgestelde bou van 'n dam in die Palmietrivier wat deur die gebied vloei, tans uit verskeie oorde kritiek ontlok nie. Gaan ons as plantkundiges sondermeer toelaat dat gedeeltes van die Kogelberg se fynbos deur water vernietig word - veral as in aanmerking geneem word dat alternatiewe bronne van water buitendien agt jaar later gevind sal moet word ? Dit is die plig van elke plantkundige om duidelik standpunt hieromtrent in te neem. Die toekoms van hierdie gebied mag deur ons optrede bepaal word.

'n Besoek is ook aan die Nasionale Botaniese Tuin te Kirstenbosch gebring. Die Assistent-Direkteur, mnr J Grobler en 'n personeellid van die tuin, mev Labuschagne het as gidse opgetree. Die bekwame wyse waarop hulle die studente deur hierdie wêreldberoemde tuin begelei het is hoog op prys gestel. Met die terugreis na Pretoria via Beaufort-Wes kon die studente verskillende Fynbosge= meenskappe en Karooplantegroeitipes besigtig. By Worcester is die Karoo-Nasionale Botaniese Tuin besoek. Van Beaufort-Wes na Pretoria is deur omtrent 10 plantegroeitipes gereis. As gevolg van 'n besonder goeie reënseisoen was die studente bevoorreg om die veld in 'n baie beter toestand te sien as wat ge= woonlik die geval is.

PUBLICATIONS: BOTHALIA 13, 3 & 4 (1981) running to 320 pages is available at R15. It includes, among others, revisions of *Melhania*, *Cola*, *Herschelia* and *Monadenia*. Among the miscellaneous ecological notes are two posthumous papers by the late H.H. von Broembsen. These interesting papers have been revised for publication by Dr J.W. Morris. One of the first ethnobotanical papers to appear in Bothalia is Miss C.A. Liengme's 'Plants used by the Tsonga people of Gazan= kulu'.

Bothalia 14, 1 is in the press and 14, 2 & 3 will contain the proceedings of the 1982 AETFAT Congress.

SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE: In a new departure for our News and Views section, we are inviting scientists to recall a favourite story about an eminent scientific personality of their acquaintance.

Everyone enjoys a good story well told, yet tales of human interest about scientists and their work rarely get written down. It seems a pity that the personal side of a famous figure is so often overlooked or inaccessible.

There reminiscences can be humorous, instructive, chastening, of historical interest, even outrageous, or simply a good story. They must of course be repeatable in print, and told in not more than 500 words. It is important that the main achievement and affiliation of the subject be mentioned some= where, either as part of the story or as a footnote.

If you happen to have a good quality black-and-white photograph of the per= son being written about, we would appreicate the opportunity to reproduce it.

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